

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 97-05

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY EXISTS DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF THE HIGHWAY 49 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, July 15, 1997, a river barge carrying a dredge with a 200 foot boom struck the Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge at Helena, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the collision resulted in major damage to the extent that the bridge was declared unsafe and closed to all traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge is a key corridor connecting Southeast Arkansas and Western Mississippi and is one of only three Mississippi River bridges in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the closest Mississippi River bridge is at Memphis, located ninety miles to the North and the other is the Lake Village/Greenville bridge located one hundred forty miles to the South; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 49 bridge has an average vehicular usage of ninety-five hundred cars per day; and

WHEREAS, the closure of this bridge created an immediate and dire negative economic impact to the communities of Helena, West Helena and Phillips County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do proclaim an emergency exists as a result of the closure of this bridge and hereby do petition the Federal Highway Administrator to concur in the declaration of this emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred ninety-seven.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST